

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Silk Culture.

MR. EDITOR: Permit me to direct the attention of your readers to an item in the Scientific American of the 18th of October last respecting silk culture which all may not have seen.

A lady in South Carolina raised a few silk worms every year to assist the development of silk raising in the United States, which the woman had taken in hand, found as the winter had been warm that her eggs had hatched before the osage orange or the mulberry had put forth leaves with which to feed them, and the ramie leaves being at hand, she thought perhaps she could save the life of her worms the ramie leaves until the mulberry leaves appeared. The worms fed ravenously upon the ramie leaves and thrived so well that when the mulberry leaves appeared she divided the worms into two lots, feeding one lot on the mulberry and the other with the ramie.

Those worms fed with the ramie made the larger cocoons. The lady sent the two lots separately to the society, from whom she shortly after received a letter of inquiry as to "how she had produced the large cocoons, as they were not only larger, but the silk was of a superior quality?" In commenting upon this, I must say that it is quite reasonable that pure silk should be of better quality if made from the silk plant than if made from some inferior material. We know better paper is produced from pulp made of a better material than if a poor, coarse material is used in its manufacture. We also know that the flesh of animals fed on better food is superior in quality and flavor to flesh made from inferior food. I have never seen any plant fiber that compared so favorably with pure silk as the ramie plant produces. In the leaf also the silky fiber is to be seen as well as on the stalk. If it should prove true that superior silk can be made by feeding worms with ramie leaves a bright prospect opens for these islands in the silk line, as there is no month in the year that the ramie would not produce young leaves abundantly, and no month of the year that it would not be warm enough to hatch the silk moth eggs. So a feeding of worms and gathering of cocoons could be going on constantly, and with proper care every month of the year ramie could be harvested for its fiber. So the natural silk and the artificial silk could be produced from the same plant at the same time, and an income derived from each. J. M. HORNER.

Hilo Wants to Know.

MR. EDITOR: The people who live in Hilo do not amount to much. We recognize that fact. We have not got any electric lights; we have no appropriation of a hundred or two thousand dollars for fixing up our harbor; we have no steam lines to California; we do not have a brass band at the expense of the whole country; we have no California baseball clubs; no railroad excursions nor boom towns. We are simply a no-count backwoods town with no object in life but to pay our taxes, help pay His Majesty's debts when he gets strapped and support a good looking Ministry when we have a chance; but, Mr. Editor, some of us read the papers once in a while, and we are laboring under the impression that the last Legislature appropriated \$20,000 for a wharf in Hilo, and \$13,000 for Hilo water works; and \$5,000 for a fire department; and \$55,000 for the Volcano road; and an appropriation for lighting our streets.

Now, if this is so, we just want to know, you know, what is going to be done about it. It is simply out of curiosity that we want to know, you know; we are used to landing through the surf and climbing up a slippery ladder, and I presume the powers that be in Honolulu think that it will improve our constitutions to keep on doing it. We are used to drinking mud and slops and drainings from our neighbors up the hill, and our stomachs have become so used to it, that probably we need it for a tonic.

We are getting used to driving up to the end of the Volcano road and looking off to nowhere, and wondering when Providence will move in its mysterious way and touch the heart of the Minister of the Interior sufficiently to go ahead and construct the road to somewhere. We are used to seeing appropriations made for Honolulu and having them all spent, and to seeing them made for Hilo and nothing spent, so that if we don't get anything out of this appropriation bill there will be no revolution in Hilo; we will not put on war paint and shed any Interior Department gore; but we just want to satisfy our curiosity as to whether anything is going to be done or not, because nearly nine months of the period have already elapsed, and not a stroke has yet been done, and in another year from now politics will be in full blast again. Huo.

Notes from the Baseball Grounds.

MR. EDITOR: I have always felt a little ashamed because, being an American, I could not enjoy the great "American game," and mentally decided to settle that point once for all. "Off for the baseball!"

I asked a lady seated near me what had so captivated her in the game. She answered, "Why, look at it—study it—

understand it—and you can't help but respect it." Under her kindly tutelage, I soon began to discover great excellencies in the batting. In every game I was forced to admire the great, broad shoulders which did the batting. It sets one to thinking of physical culture. If some of our puny, little clerks would play baseball, what splendid examples of health and strength they would become. I heard a lady near me say: "Dear me, if I owned one of these great, strong fellows, you wouldn't catch me going with Bob again." My readers may know who "Bob" is; I do not.

"COMPULSORY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT."

As I looked upon these strong, fine specimens of mankind, I could not help wishing for a compulsory law in American cities, as well as this, enforcing the practice of baseball upon our young men of fashion, some of whom possess far more money than brains, and also upon the puny clerks, who dandle and dries his life-blood up in the poisonous cigarette, during his leisure hours. Were this the law and enforced, our daughters would not go abroad for husbands. Brawn and muscle are appreciated by a sensible girl. Likewise, the qualification of health. Good health is a rare accomplishment to the female portion, and greatly appreciated in her by her husband.

BASE BALL.

Is purely a man's game. It not only represents strength of the body, but activity of the mind. Because of its mathematical and scientific qualities, we pronounce it purely masculine, although it does not require brute force, like the prize fight. The men who are chosen for its leaders are not essentially "savages pugilists," like John L. S., but they must combine a certain intellectual acumen with physical strength and agility. They cannot be pallid professionals from office, store, shop or college, but must have the well-trained wits of one and the herculean muscles of the other.

NO EXCESSES.

The very nature of this game demands a carefully-ordered life from those who would win and retain success in it. Excesses of any kind must rob the player of his strength and activeness. Therefore I opine that the tendency of this game must be toward morality and sobriety. The game and its devotees deserve earnest approval, because it goes to the very limit of abandon, without growing or becoming vulgar. "Aloha nui" to our baseball guests, as well as the home talent. Sincerely

MAI FAI.

Reply to the Honorable Waipulani.

MR. EDITOR: In the ADVERTISER of the 5th inst. is an article from Waipulani (a representative from Kona) about the "Kau Volcano Road," which calls for some corrections and comments. The honorable member from Kona writes: "The I. I. S. N. Co. paid \$4400 to Peter Lee." Anybody would from this statement suppose that Mr. Lee was paid the above amount by said company as compensation for building the road. But the fact is that Mr. Lee borrowed money, and paid it back, and was charged 20 per cent. interest for the use of same. This is quite a different thing altogether, and it is very strange that Waipulani should make such a mistake, especially after "I and other honorable members of the House" had inspected the agreement between Peter Lee and the I. I. S. N. Co. The honorable member further writes: "Peter Lee has received some money from the road under the agreement with the I. I. S. N. Co." Yes, of course he has, but what of that? It is his business to convey people over that road to the Volcano, and he is not likely to do that for nothing. And that he profits by the road, does that make it any less desirable for the Government, any more than Waipulani's valuable services in the Legislature are made less because he derives some profit from them.

Another objection to the road was, that it is not in the same condition now as when it was built. This is freely admitted; it is not in the same condition, but in a far better one, because it is hardened and packed down considerably by wear, and besides it has been thoroughly repaired in places where the unusually heavy floods did damage last fall.

All Waipulani's objections to the road, when looked at in the light of truth, and not obscured by his inspection and consultation with responsible gentlemen from Kau and further assistance in Honolulu, are only recommendations to the road. It just depends on getting the right focus.

Now let us take a look at what the honorable member indignantly calls "the greedy and fabulous price of \$10,000." The Government is now completing a road from Hilo to the Volcano which before it is done probably will cost the nice little sum of \$150,000, or God knows how much more. Put the \$10,000 alongside, and it does not show up so fabulous, does it? considering the length of both roads to be about the same, and the same kind of country to go through. The Kau road is certainly not quite so fancy as the other one, but it is perfectly safe and comfortable to travel over; which the honorable member can find out by taking an "inspection-trip" with his responsible gentlemen from Kau.

Waipulani would not misappropriate public funds to buy a good and highly-needed road, although he says that he strongly supports the spending of public moneys for roads, because he thinks "that good roads are a sure sign of an enlightened and progressive government." This must then be a sure sign that Waipulani is not enlightened. Peter Lee's road is closed to public traffic, and the traveling people will now have to go back to the old trail, a delightful and romantic trail, winding itself in multitudes of curves between huge rocks of barren lava, and for a change through long stretches of deserts of kneedeep sand, which very often by the strong wind has covered the trail entirely. It has happened, not once but many times, that people starting out for the Volcano have lost their way, and after long wearisome travel and risk of life have found themselves way over in Puna in place of the Volcano.

All the honor however must not be given to Waipulani; he shares it with the Representative, ex-Policeman, etc., from Kau, the Honorable Apiki. He introduced to the House a petition from his district to buy Lee's road, and afterwards did his level best to defeat his own bill.

This gentleman was not in the habit of speaking in the House, he used Waipulani as a mouthpiece, because his own intellectual capacities were not quite up

to the mark. In the House he always wore a kind of puzzled look, as if he was wondering how in the Dickens he ever got there. He filled his chair first-rate—that is in a bodily sense—but he did not like to get out of it till the House adjourned. I have seen him sometimes making a show of getting up and saying something, but always when somebody else had the floor, and then he would sit down again as if reluctantly and assume a disappointed look. He always managed to vote though, either one way or the other.

Waipulani is a superior article—in his own mind. He knows his own capacities; that is, he doesn't undervalue them at all; which clearly shows, when he says: "I and other honorable members," etc. (the other honorable members of course only small potatoes in comparison), and further: "I deemed it was best for the Legislature to reject this preposterous claim," this, of course, settled the thing right there and then.

Hoping that Waipulani may benefit some by this reply, I wish him good-bye. P. M. LEE.

A Pilgrim's Observations.

MR. EDITOR: Sometimes it happens that an outsider sees things from a point of view different from that of the permanent resident, and hence I venture to commit to paper my impressions of one circumstance of Honolulu life. I do so purely from an outside position and hesitate, lest I should be thought as one of those who venture where angels would surely decline to interfere.

The other evening, having just landed in Honolulu, and wishing to render my vows after a long voyage, I attended service in St. Andrew's Cathedral. There was a choir of boys who, by the way, were vainly trying to sing a hymn about three notes above the range of their voices—the organ sounded as if all the insides had dropped out and nothing remained but the higher and more piercing pipes of the instrument. In the nave I saw a school of boys; and further I noticed the Right Reverend the Bishop and the member or members (I forget which) of his immediate household. As I had no connection with the school I felt almost as if I were intruding upon the privacy of his lordship's family devotions, and would fain have retired but that any movement in an empty church reverberates with such embarrassing volume of sound that I judged it better to be regarded as an intruder rather than incur censure as a breaker of that peace which in this case seemed to pass understanding. On more than one occasion since that night have I attended what is known as the first congregation service. And I have discovered that the members of this little band make up in zeal and regular attendance what they lose in point of numbers. I suppose they feel an obligation of loyal attendance, for if one should absent herself the cathedral congregation would be reduced 33.3 if not 50 per cent of all its strength (excepting the school). I wish distinctly to say that my visit was on the Sabbath.

It occurred to me to visit the Second Congregation service, and I found a different state of things; to be sure the church was not crowded, but there was a good and numerous attendance. The music was excellent, I scarcely recognized the organ, and, if the clergyman will permit a mere layman to pass judgment on his reading of the Scriptures, I will congratulate him thereon. I have rarely heard the inspired text read with better emphasis—words such distinct enunciation, or with what, for want of a better word, I will call "sympathy." I have gathered from a member of this congregation, which is absolutely the only one in existence, that the Bishop contemplates a revolution in the hours of divine service, and that the school children and the "household of faith" are to meet for family prayers at 11—while the faithful of the parish are to hold divine service at an early hour. Now, sir, it does seem to me that this is one of the most ridiculous moves I have ever heard of. Eleven o'clock is the recognized hour all over the world for the regular Sunday choral service, and I think the members of the Anglican community in Honolulu will have cause for indignant remonstrance if pique or spite or the convenience of a handful of school boys is to interfere with their Sundays and their rights established by long-standing precedent. Yours very faithfully

A PILGRIM.

A Correction.

MR. EDITOR, DEAR SIR: In the Bulletin this evening I notice a letter which through the mistake of the writer compels me to rectify a two-fold error.

1. A lady did not play the organ on the evening I refer to—I thought it was one of the clergy who turned from his place in the choir to preside at the organ.

2. I beg to assure the writer that I have never worn a hood belonging to any organ guild in my life, nor am I a member of any such organization—either honorary or otherwise.

I am sorry that a lady should have taken to herself any remark of mine—but it really had no more to do with her than her sarcasm can by any possibility apply to me. My object in writing my letter was to draw attention to my private estimate of the two congregations as representatives of public divine worship and to emphasize what seemed to me the outrage that an ill-equipped, sparsely attended meeting should intrude upon, displace and seriously inconvenience a well-organized system of worship by depriving it of its hour of meeting—which it has heretofore peacefully enjoyed in undisputed possession. I remain, yours faithfully,

PILGRIM.

Dec. 10th.

Honolulu Oratorio Society.

MR. EDITOR: DEAR SIR: It is proposed to establish a society in Honolulu for the purpose of studying and publicly performing oratorio music. There is surely abundant musical talent in the city and suburbs, and it seems a pity that no opportunity should be afforded for enjoying the highest class of choral music. Such works as the Messiah, the Elijah, Judas Macabeus, St. Paul are practically unknown in Honolulu to our own great loss. It is obvious that the only way to succeed in a work of this kind is to secure the services of all capable of rendering assistance. I have spoken to many ladies and gentlemen, including some of the leading musicians, and all seem greatly disposed to enter upon the work. May I, through your widely circulated

journal, ask those who are willing to help to meet in the Y. M. C. A. hall on Thursday evening, the 18th inst., at 8 o'clock. The invitation is especially extended to all choirs and musical associations. It will certainly do no harm to anyone to meet and see what can be done.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain,

Your obedient servant,
F. M. ENGLISH, B.A. (Oxon).

The Tug Boat Elen.

How long, Mr. Editor, how long is our tug Elen going to be in the carpenter's hands yet, before she can be earning instead of spending?

About five weeks have now elapsed since it was reported her little stern frame was discovered unsound, and \$5.50 per day carpenters have been employed on it ever since that time, and yet not finished.

It certainly could not have been tendered for, as is understood all government work over \$500 was to be by law. Was there anything to hinder the superintendent and some of his men who were idle to cut and see how far the unsound timbers extended? Then call for tenders of cost and time accordingly, as has been done in similar cases of a like nature in this harbor; far more extensive and done to time limit.

I am far from thinking that either the superintendent or any boss is encouraging any delay in the repairs of the tug ("longshore men and would-be critics to the contrary notwithstanding"). But I do say that had that stern job been tendered for, it would have been done ere this, and cheaper, with good workmanship also. A HAWAIIAN MECHANIC.

Dec. 8, 1890.

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